



WILLIAM T. PECORA AWARD

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to science, education, leadership, organization, and service in the field of remote sensing.

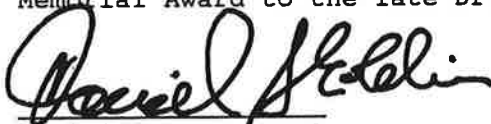
Dr. Simonett was a very productive researcher. As a scholar, Dr. Simonett made many contributions to the advancement in the field of remote sensing, beginning in 1964 with the field of active microwave remote sensing. His papers focused on two primary themes--radar remote sensing with an emphasis on vegetation modeling, and the philosophical and analytical considerations of remote sensing theory. Dr. Simonett sustained a continuous, high-quality publication record throughout his career, even during his years as Chairman of Geography and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB).

From NASA-sponsored working groups to the committees of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Simonett assumed a leadership role important in the advancement of satellite remote sensing. His work on the 1976 Conference on Space Data Formats was seminal in improving our understanding of the integration of remote sensing and geographic information systems. The range and depth of his work and his overall perspective on the value of remote sensing raised Dr. Simonett above the level of research and made appropriate the title of "Scholar."

Dr. Simonett was active in higher education for almost 40 years. He was a demanding teacher, pushing both students and colleagues to their intellectual limits. He made significant contributions to remote sensing education through his book with Joseph Lintz, entitled: Remote Sensing of Environment and through his contributions to the First and Second Editions of the Manual of Remote Sensing. Dr. Simonett's drive for academic excellence raised him above the level of teacher and accorded him the special title "Educator."

In addition to building character, Dr. Simonett built institutions. In the 1960's, Dr. Simonett helped found and build the Center for Research, Inc., at the University of Kansas. In the 1970's, Dr. Simonett and four nontenured assistant professors built what is today one of the top geography departments in the world. It is to his great credit as a builder that Dr. Simonett consciously and deliberately adhered to the philosophy that his star would shine brighter, surrounded by a galaxy of bright stars, rather than being a single star in the constellation. In the 1980's, Dr. Simonett was the driving force behind the award of the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCGIA) to a consortium of institutions with UCSB as lead. NCGIA is making significant contributions to the improved understanding of spatial data and analysis. All of the above and much more raised Dr. Simonett above the level of academic administrator and made the title "Builder" appropriate.

For these notable accomplishments as Scholar, Educator, and Builder, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Department of the Interior take great pleasure in presenting the 1991 William T. Pecora Memorial Award to the late Dr. David S. Simonett.


Administrator, NASA


Secretary of the Interior